

The Centre Democrat.



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"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

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The Centre Democrat.

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Thursday Morning, January 31, 1884.

Gov. PATTISON has appointed W. N. Hirst controller of Philadelphia, to supply the vacancy caused by the death of E. Harper Jeffrees.

THE dead lock in the Kentucky legislature on the Senatorial fight, is still in full tide between Blackburn and Williams. It is thought that the tide will eventually drift in the direction of Speaker Carlisle.

SENATOR SHERMAN thinks it is almost impossible to step from the Senate to the Presidency. It will undoubtedly be a very heavy contract for him, now that he has lost his "Eliza" which was a winning card in placing one fraud in the Presidential office.

THE Trustees of the Pennsylvania State College held a meeting on Friday last at Harrisburg, and appointed Gov. Pattison, Professor Atherton and Mr. Higbee, superintendent of public instruction, a committee to inquire whether any change can be judiciously made in the organization of the department of public instruction, the Committee to report at the next meeting of the board of trustees.

BLISS obtained \$100 a day for his services in prosecuting the star-route thieves, but there are those who do not scruple to believe that this is a very small moiety of what he realized from these cases from banks and contractors who escaped prosecution by having friends at court.

THE State Senate of Virginia passed a resolution Jan. 24th by a vote of 23 to 10 requesting Senator Mahone to resign. The resolution goes to the House of Delegates where it will also pass by a large majority. The Republicans need not be uneasy. Their little boss repudiator will not comply with the wishes of his constituents.

THE legislature of Virginia have passed a bill to establish a home for destitute maimed soldiers of the south. The bill provides a sum of \$5,000 per annum for ten years, and \$2,500 thereafter annually. West Virginia, Maryland, Missouri and Kentucky are invited to aid the undertaking and appoint commissioners in its management.

It is interesting to know that the expenses of running the state last year, including the extra session of the legislature, was \$250,000 less than the preceding year when the Republicans had entire control in all its departments. Only for the obstructive and revolutionary policy of the senate under instruction of Don Cameron, the saving would have been at least half a million.

JUDGING from the intemperate speech of Senator Edmunds the other day, when he came down from the Vice President's chair to insult the southern senators, the "congressional tea" must have been unusually strong. He is generally courteous, but on this occasion he was phenomenally rough and unjust, and threw the "bloody shirt" round with a looseness that must have startled Sherman, if not Logan, for the safety of their special property in the "bloody shirt" boom for the Presidency.

AN old citizen who retains a lively recollection of the weather of 1832 says that the January of 1884 corresponds to it very closely, and that if the February of this year has a parallel to that of 1832, we may expect more disastrous floods this season than the oldest inhabitant has ever seen or dreamed of. The immense body of snow on the ground and in the mountains, and the great body of ice on the streams, more than gives plausibility to the fears of our friend, and it might not be out of place to prepare for the worst at exposed points. If disaster does not come, all the better.

RUMORS have been floating round that Governor Pattison would make another effort to carry out the constitution in the matter of apportionment, by calling the legislature again into session. We don't believe a word of it. He has enough of that legislature.

THE Judges of Oregon, even the Justice of the Supreme Court get but \$2,000 a year. This would only be a moderate compensation for a country justice of the peace in this country, who never heard of Coke or Blackstone. The legal profession there must be of the cheap order or only practice law as an amusement, while they make the duceats in politics and trade.

THE Democratic State committee met at Harrisburg on Thursday last, and was largely attended by the best working Democrats in the State. The proceedings of the committee was highly interesting and very harmonious. The active and intelligent men thus coming to the front in the management of the approaching campaign gives assurance, that it will not be one of sloth or blunder. The merited unanimous re-election of Chairman Hensel is guarantee of this.

The committee appointed Lebanon as the place of holding the State convention, and fixed the date of its assembling for the 9th day of April.

EX SPEAKER KEIFER of the House is under fire to explain some of the dirty transactions of the last Congress which has returned to trouble him now. At the close of the last session of that Congress he required the resignation of a competent expert stenographer in the employ of the House, in order that he might appoint his nephew to draw the salary, amounting to over \$3,000, during the recess. It appears the nephew had no knowledge of the art, and was entirely incapable of rendering any service as an equivalent for the money thus fraudulently obtained from the Treasury. The ex-Speaker is clearly in a hole from which he cannot extricate himself.

"If you elect Hancock you choose pauper wages, idleness and the poor house, but if you elect Garfield, you will get higher wages, steady work and prosperity." Such were the words addressed to the workingmen and placarded on the manufactories preceding the last Presidential election. Under the inspiration of these deceptive assurances and the protection fraud so often played upon their fears the laboring men were rallied to the Republican standard, and what has been the result? With a Republican in the Presidential office and Republicans controlling every department of government and every act of congress, it is now in order for the working man to inquire how about the promises given—where is the higher wages, the steady work and prosperity? In what part of the country has the promises been verified? Notwithstanding that a high protective tariff has been in existence all the time and is still in existence, every where laboring men have been worked upon half time and wages falling regularly from Maine to Oregon. Why is this? Working men will do well to do a little thinking for themselves, and it may occur to them that their happiness is not entirely dependent upon the success of a party whose legislation is so entirely in the interest of monopoly, that they are incapable of discriminating in favor of labor, or keeping good faith in their promises.

JUDGE SIMONON of the Dauphin county court, has given a decision in the matter of the *mandamus* applied for some time ago by Attorney-General Cassidy to compel the board of Sinking Fund Commissioners to invest the funds in securities in accordance with the Humes law. The State Treasurer and Auditor-General who compose the majority of the board, took exceptions to the jurisdiction of the court and employed counsel to stave off the case

until last week, when the judge overruled the objection and affirmed the jurisdiction of the court. This course was adopted by the Treasurer and Auditor-General not from any doubt of the authority of the court or their own duty under the law, but purely to gain time to enable the parties who had these funds in use in speculation to restore them to the custody of the officers who should have had them in hand, instead of loaned out to obtain a percentage to which they were not entitled in honesty or decency as against the people of the state. But the object was attained by the delay. The rogues got their percentage in the mean time, and are now prepared to gather up the money of the sinking fund and comply with the mandates of the law.

THE investigation of the marshals now in progress by Mr. Springer's committee, continues to grow in interest. Every day some new rogue turns up who has been allowed to rob the government and escape with the plunder. The last is Governor Murray of Utah. He was marshal of Kentucky before he was appointed Governor of Utah, and as such serious charges stood against him reflecting upon his official rectitude. This dark record, it is said, has laid concealed in the Department of Justice year after year, and the present investigation has unearthed facts that require satisfactory explanation of the Governor of Utah a duty he cannot evade.

CERTAINLY General Sherman has no Presidential bee in his bonnet, says the *Pittsburgh Post*. He told a friend before leaving Washington last Monday that if he was nominated by acclamation and received the electoral vote of every state in the Union he would still decline. He looked forward for the remnant of his days to a life of comfort and ease, and an entire freedom from care or worry of any kind. He thought it would be the supreme kind of folly for him to be tempted by the bauble of the Presidency to enter the White House and have four years of strife, contention, irritation and criticism to encounter. To accept the Presidency would necessitate his retiring from the army, and at the end of four years he would be remanded to private life just like Grant, who was trying to earn a living in the precarious occupation of a broker in Wall street. The office of President, General Sherman said, was surrounded with so much that was difficult, so much that was unpleasant, so much that was unsatisfying, that before long instead of men of high character and statesmanship seeking for it the trouble would be to induce them to accept. "No," said he, in conclusion, "people may believe it or not, just as they please, but there is and can be no possible contingency which would induce me to think for one moment of taking the office." This is commended to those who discredit the sincerity of Gov. Tilden's declination.

SOME of the senators who recently voted against the ratification of the treaty between the United States and Mexico, excuse their votes on the ground that Gen. Grant who represented the United States, and Romero who represented Mexico in forming the treaty were partners, and possessed some railroad interests in common. A bad excuse is perhaps better than no excuse at all. Even if the ratification of the treaty intended to facilitate commerce and trade between the two governments, should also benefit Grant and Romero, the commissioners, where would be the harm? That was to be expected, and they should be allowed to prosper with the prosperity of their respective countries without let or hindrance. Gen. Grant, however, has sufficiently dignified the silly excuse of the senators giving such a reason for their action, by a public denial that he and the Mexican commissioner had any business connection, or that they possessed any interest in the treaty, except as it "would benefit the two republics and establish relations that ought to exist."

The Blair Educational Bill.

IT WILL BE REPORTED FAVORABLY TO THE SENATE EARLY THIS WEEK.

THE Senate Committee on Education took up the Blair Educational bill last week and approved, with slight amendment, all the features except that relating to the manner of distributing the money to be appropriated. Upon this point the Southern members of the committee urged that the fund should be distributed through the State authorities, instead of by Federal officials, as provided in the bill. Mr. Blair expressed anxiety to have the bill reported and a willingness to modify this feature. He was thereupon authorized by the unanimous vote of the committee to draft a provision covering this feature and report it to the Senate early this week, members of the committee reserving a right to amend the provision if it did not suit them.

The bill as it will be reported provides for the appropriation of fifteen million dollars the first year, decreasing one million each year thereafter for ten years. The provision of the bill which authorizes the teaching of industrial arts in the schools to be established has been so amended as to make it mandatory when practicable.

Any State not accepting the provisions of the act, nor acquiring or retaining the right to dispose of its allotment, the same shall become a part of the general fund for distribution among the other States and Territories.

Two Reform Bills.

We learn from the *Washington Post* that Messrs. Morrison and Hewett of the Ways and Means committee, will each submit tariff schemes to the committee. Mr. Hewett's report will consist largely of a comparison of rates in tabular form with the recommendation that the lowest rate be adopted. It will give the figures of the tariff as it exists, of the Tariff Commission bill, of the House bill of last year, of the Senate Tariff bill and of the tariff as it stood before the latest change.

Mr. Morrison's report will recommend a short bill providing for a horizontal reduction of from fifteen to twenty-five per cent. in the average, with large additions to the free list, particularly in raw materials. He said regarding his bill: "I have not written a word yet, but I can finish it in twenty minutes." He further stated that he was waiting to ascertain the amount of reduction in revenue that would be effected by the proposed changes, and also to examine Mr. Hewett's schedule. Experts are at work on both bills.

Mr. Morrison thinks the result will be a practical agreement between Mr. Hewett and himself on the main features. "Those," said he, "who are talking about the paralysis of the Ways and Means committee are mistaken. Before I draft my bill I want to find out exactly what the figures and effect will be of what I propose."

It is explained by the *New York Sun* that the Republican party's equivocal attitude toward Mahone grows out of Mr. Blaine's hostility to him. Blaine sees that if the party were to acknowledge Mahone fully, and thereby silence the clatter of the Blaine Republican papers, the Southern delegations would at once take the Virginian as their leader, and follow him into the Arthur camp, if one should be established. But with Mahone on the ragged edge of the party, admitted when his vote is wanted, but shouldered away like a poor relation when he claims a right to the family name. The Republicans of the South are put on their guard against him. A contesting delegation will go from Virginia to challenge his right to be considered a member of the party. Then will come the final struggle between the Blaine-Garfield forces on the one side and all who favor Southern coalition movements on the other.

Democratic Duty.

It is a pleasure to note, says the *Union Leader*, that the Democratic journals generally, instead of ignoring the Tariff question, as is by a few advised, are devoting themselves to fully explaining and emphasizing the fact that the issue between the parties as far as formulated, is not whether we shall have protection or free trade, but as to whether we shall have a prohibitory tariff for surplus and monopoly, or a tariff for revenue with such incidental protection only as is essential to the maintenance of fair rates of wages in industries embarrassed by foreign competition and whose encouragement is conducive to a proper development of our natural resources. Democratic newspapers can be at no better work than that of making this explanation, proving its correctness and forcing the facts home to the knowledge of their readers. The Republican party is no more a protection and no less a free trade party than the Democratic party. The difference is that the former aim at the highest tariff possible, because that is to the interest of the monopolists whose money they use to keep them in power, while the Democrats aim at the least protection that will answer the purpose for the sake of the working people whose interests they are pledged to serve and whose votes they want to put them in power. It is the little game of the Republican press, of course, to hide these truths and distort the issue, but it is a little game they cannot successfully play, if their Democratic contemporaries continue alive to their duties in the premises.

An Indian Agent's Costly Error.

Mr. Tiffany, who was an Indian agent in New Mexico in 1881, testified before the House Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice yesterday, that he had submitted a report to the Department of the Interior containing an error of \$12. He was afterwards arrested in New York and taken to the Territory for trial, but his case was never tried. Mr. Tiffany said there were ten indictments against him. The prosecution, however, could never secure the necessary witness to convict him. He estimated his expenses in appearing for trial at between five and six thousand dollars.

A Blackmailer.

Washington, January 20—A curious fact is reported by Examiner Ballin of the Department of Justice, in connection with the examination of the accounts of the late United States Marshal Hall, of Western Pennsylvania. The discovery of the irregularity in his accounts was made by the attempt of one of Hall's deputies to blackmail the Marshal. This Deputy, it appears, saw the loose manner in which the Marshal's business was being conducted and investigated on his own hook enough to find out there was short some \$90,000. He said he had no desire to get Hall into trouble and would say nothing about it if paid \$10,000. This was the first knowledge the Marshal had of his own shortage, and it is considered highly creditable to him as an honest man that he indignantly rejected the offer, saying in effect that if he had been spending the Government funds he didn't do it knowingly and would not now begin by paying hush money.

The deputy threatened, but Mr. Hall snapped his fingers at him. The result was the blackmailer immediately informed the department and an examiner was sent to Pittsburgh to investigate the case, which, as has been published found out a shortage of \$150,000. Examiner Ballin says that Hall was very much affected by the discoveries, and was apparently more astonished than anybody else. The matter so worked upon him that it was feared that he might commit suicide, and a watch was set upon him to prevent any such unfortunate occurrence. He was, without knowing it, closely watched all summer because of this supposition, and it is yet feared that his reason may become so clouded as to prompt him to take his own life.

GET your Job Work done at the CENTRE DEMOCRAT office.

All Sorts.

Don't disappoint Logan. It is all the Presidential capital he has.

Game was found frozen stiff in Butler county on Sunday last.

The *Washington Post* suggests that Alaska be made a penal colony.

Oregon expects an increase of 40,000 in its population this year.

The *Pittsburgh Post* wants no more extra sessions of the Legislature.

No less than 165,000 human beings have been transported to Siberia during the past ten years.

Ex-Governor Hendricks, who is now in Paris, writes that his health is much better than when he left this country.

The libel suit of Jonathan Meek against the *Pottsville Miner's Journal* for \$5,000 damages, resulted yesterday in a verdict for one cent damages.

A silk farm has been established in Powhatan county, Virginia, by a number of French families. Another one will soon be started in North Carolina.

Over fifty acres of surface ground has cracked in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley, Luzerne county, owing to the props in old coal workings having given way.

"The Friends of Religious and Political Liberty" are holding a convention in Lidesville, Crawford county, for the purpose of celebrating Paine's birthday.

It is reported that horses and cattle west of the Medina River in Texas are dying by hundreds for want of grass. Owners are driving their stock South.

Ex-Governor Litcher, of Virginia, died at Lexington last week. He was for many years a member of congress, and a very prominent Democratic leader in his state.

A negro in Wytch county, Virginia, has been found guilty of murder in the first degree by a jury composed exclusively of colored men. No chance there to wave the "bloody shirt."

By a German statistician the 425,000,000 Christians on the globe, are divided into 215,000,000 Roman Catholics, 122,000,000 Protestants, 80,000,000 adherents of the Greek church and 8,000,000 of other churches.

The resolution passed in the Virginia senate a few days ago, requesting General Mahone to resign his seat in the United States senate, came up in the House of Delegates and was agreed to without debate.

Mr. D. R. Locke (Nasby), who is writing letters from the South says: "If I was twenty-five years old and had \$1,000 to start life with, I had rather risk my chances in Atlanta than any city in the world."

English trade has suffered from farmers holding their wheat for higher prices, but nevertheless there were fewer business failures in that country in 1883 than in 1882.

The Hon. John C. New has resigned the office of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and returned to Indiana. Mr. New expected to be Secretary of the Treasury, but Folger was not elected Governor of New York, and was too stubborn to resign or die.

Mr. Allison, of Iowa, is the only senator thus far re-elected this winter to succeed himself. He thus enters upon his third term without opposition in his own party and with the continued good will of even the opposition.

When Mr. Fred Douglass declared thirty years ago "that if a black man burnt his feet by marrying a white woman, he must expect to stand upon the blisters," it did not occur to the dusky orator that he would be walking upon blisters in his old age. But such is life.

General G. W. C. Lee has paid to the Alexandria County Supervisors the war tax due on the Arlington estate, amounting to \$2,500, leaving the United States Government still owing him \$22,500 retained of the purchase money.

Mrs. A. B. Shea, formerly of New York city, who had buried two husbands and three children, committed suicide in Bradford, Saturday, because George N. Howard, a widower of that place, refused to marry her.

If the congressmen who are taking an opportunity to shake the bloody shirt in the discussion of the Fitz John Porter bill think they have the mass of the Republican party with them they are very much mistaken.—*Altoona Tribune*.

Senator Lamar is said by his Mississippi friends to be one of the few poor men in the United States Senate. Of late years most of his salary has gone to pay old debts, obligations of a nature that only a man of scrupulous integrity would think of paying.